



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

U.S. INDICTS 39 MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES OF VIOLENT CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK CITY

Indictment Includes Racketeering, Extortion, Drug, Money Laundering, and Counterfeiting Charges

NEW YORK, N.Y. -- MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, MARTIN D. FICKE, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Department of Homeland Security, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") in New York, MARK J. MERSHON, the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), RAYMOND W. KELLY, the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"), and THOMAS E. BOYLE, Assistant Inspector-in-Charge, Postal Inspection Service in New York announced today the unsealing of a 22-count Indictment in Manhattan federal court that effectively dismantles a major, violent criminal organization-- the **Yi Ging Organization**-- operating throughout New York City.

As alleged in the Indictment, the Yi Ging Organization regularly resorted to violence and threats of violence to preserve, protect, and augment its power and illegal money-making activities, which included extortion, the operation of several lucrative gambling parlors in the Chinatown section of Manhattan, and the large-scale importation and distribution of pirated DVDs and CDs.

The Indictment unsealed today charges 39 defendants with wide-ranging criminal activity, including racketeering offenses ("RICO"), assaults in aid of racketeering, extortion, conspiracy to commit extortion, extortionate debt collection, conspiracy to use extortionate means to collect extensions of credit, witness tampering, money laundering, trafficking in counterfeit DVDs and CDs, the operation of large-scale illegal gambling businesses, and drug trafficking.

The Indictment also seeks a total of \$10 million in forfeiture from the 18 defendants charged with RICO offenses, reflecting the lucrative nature of the Organization's criminal businesses. In connection with the unsealing of the Indictment, the Government also executed five search warrants at various illegal gambling locations in Manhattan and Queens.

The unsealed Indictment is the result of coordinated investigations over the past three years directed at criminal organizations based in the Chinatown section of Manhattan by the United States

Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, ICE, the FBI, the Postal Inspection Service and the NYPD. In November 2004, related investigations resulted in the arrests of 51 members and associates of two other violent gangs that extorted numerous businesses and individuals, operated gambling parlors and trafficked in counterfeit goods in New York City.

The defendants who are in custody will be arraigned this afternoon by United States Magistrate Judge JAMES C. FRANCIS, in Manhattan Federal Court at 500 Pearl Street.

THE INDICTMENT

The Indictment alleges that 18 of the defendants, GENG CHEN, a/k/a "Yi Geng," a/k/a "Yi Ging," a/k/a "Yi Gen," a/k/a "Junlou Dhang," KAI ZHI WANG, a/k/a "Xiao Zhang," a/k/a "Yi Ge," a/k/a "Yi Gai," a/k/a "Chao M. Wang," TING LIN, a/k/a "Ah Feng," BI GUI LIU, a/k/a "Lao Liu," a/k/a "Qiang Lin," JIAN NAN LIN, a/k/a "Brother Jian-Nan," a/k/a "Gou Lin," CHEN JIAN, a/k/a "Nong Nong," XING HONG CHEN, a/k/a "Kevin," a/k/a "Yi Liang," a/k/a "Yi Lang," a/k/a "Xing Z. Chen," WEN JIAN HUANG, a/k/a "Wen Jian," a/k/a "Yi Jian," a/k/a "Wen Huang," PAN YOU DI, a/k/a "Ah Di," WANG TIAN TING, LIU YONG, a/k/a "Ah Dong," QING DI WANG, FNU LNU, a/k/a "Lao Yang," a/k/a "Qu. Q Song," DE HUI CHEN, a/k/a "Yi Shou," JIN CHENG CHEN, a/k/a "Jin Cheng," TONG CHEN, LANG XING ZHENG, a/k/a "Ah Kan," and XUE JIAO CHEN (the "RICO Defendants") were members of the Yi Ging Organization, a violent and organized criminal enterprise.

The Indictment also charges that defendants GENG CHEN, a/k/a "Yi Ging," and KAI ZHI WANG were leaders of the Organization who supervised, directed and participated in the Organization's criminal activities and ordered members and associates of the Organization to use force against groups and individuals who were perceived as threats to the Organization, including the operators of rival gambling parlors and competitors in the counterfeit DVD and CD business.

The Yi Ging Organization allegedly reaped enormous profits from its criminal activities. It is alleged that its gambling parlors took in up to \$50,000 in a night and its pirated DVD and CD business generated millions of dollars in profits. Allegedly, members of the Organization traveled regularly to China to obtain illegal copies of American and Chinese DVDs, which they then smuggled into the United States. The Organization then copied the DVDs, as well as pirated CDs of popular music, which were sold at stores it controlled in Manhattan and elsewhere in New York City, it is alleged. The Indictment further alleges that the Organization sent much of its profits back to China, in part to purchase additional DVDs and CDs.

The Indictment charges 16 separate acts of racketeering activity in two counts, including conspiracy to operate illegal gambling businesses, conspiracy to traffic in counterfeit DVDs and CDs, violent collection of gambling debts, extortion directed at persons operating rival gambling and counterfeiting businesses, conspiracy to bribe a witness, conspiracy to distribute ecstasy and ketamine and money laundering.

The Indictment also charges GENG CHEN, KAI ZHI WANG and several other RICO defendants with committing assaults in aid of racketeering to collect a debt owed by a gambling customer, extort money from a rival trafficker in counterfeit DVDs and CDs, and punish a person who failed to contribute to the cost of a bribe to buy the silence of a victim of another assault.

In addition to the RICO defendants, 21 other defendants are charged variously with illegal gambling, trafficking in counterfeit DVDs and CDs, extortion, and conspiring to distribute ecstasy and ketamine. These additional defendants are TIEN HUA CHEN, a/k/a “Ma Tian Hua,” JIAN DONG CHEN, a/k/a “Yi Hua Di,” LIANG YUN CHEN, YUN YU JIANG, a/k/a “Hong Yu,” a/k/a “Feng Yu,” FNU LNU, a/k/a “Tony,” FNU LNU, a/k/a “Ban Dian,” FNU LNU, a/k/a “Ah Jie,” EING CHEN, a/k/a “Ah Hai,” REN HUANG ZHENG, a/k/a “Ah Bui,” GUO LIN FU, a/k/a “Guo Li,” YOU CAI LIN, a/k/a “Yi Cai,” FANG DI LIN, MEI XIAN LIU, FNU LNU, a/k/a “Bian Nou,” a/k/a “Bin Liu,” FNU LNU, a/k/a “Yi Guang,” FNU LNU, a/k/a “Lin Zhou,” a/k/a “Ling Jiu,” QI YOU GUO, a/k/a “Wu Pei,” a/k/a “Yu Pai,” a/k/a “Yi Bei,” ZHI ZHAO LIU, a/k/a “Yi Chiu,” a/k/a “Yi Qiu,” CAI RONG CHEN, a/k/a “Yi Hua Di,” a/k/a “Lon Young,” JIAN LIN, a/k/a “Bai Nou,” a/k/a “Ah Gu,” a/k/a “Bei Wu,” and FNU LNU, a/k/a “Wu Zi.”

Finally, the Indictment includes forfeiture allegations, which indicates that the United States will seek criminal forfeiture of criminal proceeds and properties owned by certain of the defendants in the event the Government obtains convictions for the offenses charged. The Indictment seeks forfeiture in the total amount of \$10 million from the RICO Defendants.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of ICE, the FBI, the NYPD, and the Postal Inspection Service in this investigation. Mr. GARCIA indicated that the recent investigations have dismantled major, violent criminal gangs previously entrenched in Chinatown and other neighborhoods of New York City.

If convicted of racketeering or racketeering conspiracy, the RICO Defendants face a maximum sentence of 20 years’ imprisonment. In addition, each extortion, extortion conspiracy and money laundering count carries a maximum sentence of 20 years’ imprisonment; and each count charging the operation of an illegal gambling business and the trafficking in counterfeit DVDs and CDs carries a maximum sentence of 5 years’ imprisonment.

Assistant United States Attorneys JONATHAN KOLODNER and SCOTT MARRAH are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.